

The City of Frederick, Maryland
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of December 15, 2010

(Approved February 16, 2011)

Members Present: J. Myers, D. Rivera, M. Lawrence, J. Baldi, C. Meierhoefer, J. Grove, K. Wagester

Staff Present: R. Myers, K. Winterstein, Alderman M. O'Connor

Regrets: C. Effland

Absent: R. Jones

Meeting called to order by Chairman J. Baldi at 7:00 p.m.

- 1. Review of the September 15, 2010 minutes:

Motion by J. Myers to approve the minutes as submitted

2nd by J. Grove

All in favor.

- 3. Chairman Baldi reversed the order and asked the Appalachian & Catoctin Mountain Districts Boy Scouts of America representatives, Mr. Ron Layman and Mr. Jim Robbins, to present their item. Mr. Robbins and Mr. Layman both wanted to thank the Commission for approval of their event in Baker Park on October 15 & 16, 2010. The event was terrific as was the weather; 274 scouts participated in the overnight camping event. They also presented each member with a commemorative patch and a plaque to the Parks & Recreation Department.
- 2. Revisit the May 16, 2007 Hospital Park Improvement proposal.

Ms. Amanda Forster offered that she, Jennifer Swafford and other neighbors of the park has resurrected the Friends Of Hospital Park (FOHP) and want to move forward with installing a playground unit, benches, walking path, fence, lights, handicap accessibility, etc. Ms. Swafford has been working with staff and Playworld to draft plans and the plan has been provided for the Commission's review.

(Ms. Swafford entered the meeting.) Ms. Swafford stated she is currently the president of FOHP. In 2007 a plan was devised to develop the park further and the only change is to the south end which is where the play unit is planned to be located. Discussion centered around who is responsible for what, funding and scheduling. FOHP currently has funding in place of about \$75,000 and they also want to apply for Community Development Block Grant Funding to match the total cost of the project. Since they are not a non-profit, they will need assistance in applying for that grant. The last time the CDBG awarded funding to the Parks Department was in 2000. Being a low to moderate income level area, they feel they fit a need for the CDBG funding.

R. Myers offered that they went through the steps to being officially recognized as a Friends Of group by The City of Frederick. At the time they had the skills of someone in the neighborhood to provide the plan from 2007. Once they received the City's recognition they had a plan to raise funding; realizing that it is not easy to raise that kind of money. What has happened is that some of the key players have moved out of the area and Jennifer has stepped up to move forward with the project in a more realistic vision. The City provided \$35,000 and HOPE IV provided \$40,000. The group would like to have Maple Avenue closed at some point in the future. In looking at the original plan, move the equipment closer to the streets which puts kids closer to streets and traffic. It also would cost more to build two separate playgrounds and maintain them. They have met on site with Jeff Barber of Playworld representatives to come up with the plan presented this evening. With this plan, it is more cost effective, easier to build and maintain. The City will prep the site and provide some in-kind services to make their funds go further. What you see proposed tonight is much more acceptable by staff than the previous plan. They have enough to pay for the playground unit and if they get the matching CDBG funding, that will help to go further. The idea is to fence that entire section in with a wrought iron look fence. It is nice to see them step up to get this project going.

M. Lawrence inquired about improvements to the north end. R. Myers stated the City has no plans for that; it would be up to the FOHP.

Discussion was held about the smoking issues in the park and how Frederick Memorial Hospital has worked with their staff to stop this in Hospital Park.

R. Myers offered that Jennifer Swafford and he have emailed with Joe Adkins, Direction of Planning, regarding the CDBG application and funding issues. Staff will work with FOHP in submission of the request. He feels most of this funding will go to fencing and lights. Further, a handicap ramp is required and will be installed when the playground is installed.

K. Wagester inquired about where the fence will be installed. J. Swafford indicated the entire playground and path is to be enclosed by the fence which R. Myers agreed with.

J. Baldi asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he offered that he liked the proposed plan and would like to see the FOHP move forward in getting this complete.

Motion by J. Grove to approve the plan as proposed with staff to assist in the request for CDBG funding;

2nd by M. Lawrence

ALL in favor.

At this time, the Commission and staff welcomed new member Mr. Ken Wagester. He offered that he is a local landscape architect and happy to be serving on this Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi A. Winterstein

Commission Secretary